REMARKS

Claims 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bridgelall (US Publication 2002/0085516 A1) in view of Swartz et al. (US Patent Number 6,330,244 B1).

The Examiner states that Bridgelall teaches a method of internetworking a mobile station to operate in a wireless wide are network (WWAN) comprising: provisioning a switch 1315 (Access Point) to communicate with the WLAN via IP communication (see figure 13, page 8 section 0076); the switch 1315 (AP) receiving mobile station communications via the WLAN (see figure 13, page 2 sections 0011). The Examiner states that Swartz teaches Applicant's claim 1 step of provisioning a switch 610 (Access Point) to communicate with the WLAN 650 (WAN) via IP communication communicating with a PBX 630 via a PBX interface (see figures 6A, col. 5 lines 46-53, col. 6 lines 36-50). The Examiner states that Swartz inherently teaches the switch (AP) converting said mobile station communications to a format compatible with the PBX interface and forwarding the converted communications to the PBX (col 6 lines 36-41).

Applicant respectfully disagrees. For both Bridgelall and Swartz the Examiner equates an Access Point (AP) to a switch. An AP, as defined by ANSI/IEEE std 802.11, 1999 edition, is defined as an entity that has station functionality and provides access to the distribution services via the wireless medium for associated stations. A station is defined as any device that has an IEEE 802.11 conformant medium access control and physical layer interface to the wireless medium. Distribution services enable the medium access control (MAC) to transport MAC service data units between stations that are not in direct communication with each other over a single instance of the wireless medium. In other words, an AP in the WLAN system functions similarly to a base transceiver station in a wireless cellular system in that it transceives radio signals (MAC service data units) to and from mobile stations. A switch, on the other hand, bridges a mobile telephone network with another telephone network such as the PSTN, or in the case of Applicant's claim 1, the switch bridges the WWAN, WLAN and PBX telephone networks.

Further, Applicant's claim 1 recites "provisioning a switch to communicate with the WLAN ..." and "the switch receiving mobile station communications via the WLAN." As commonly known in the art, an AP is part of the WLAN system. Thus, it is incorrect to read the AP of either Bridgelall or Swartz to be a switch (AP) that communicates with the WLAN since the AP is part of the WLAN system. Likewise, it is incorrect to read the AP of either Bridgelall or Swartz to be a switch that receives mobile station communications via the WLAN since the AP is part of the WLAN system.

Thus, neither Bridgelall nor Swartz, either alone or in combination, teach Applicant's claim 1. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-8 are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to 50-2117.

Respectfully submitted, Sundar, Rangamani, et al.

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